The Vulcan Language Guide

Note: The Vulcan Dictionary first appeared on the newsgroup alt.startrek.creative on 19 June 1992. It was written by Bill Richmond and converted to HTML by Chris Pinette.

The version of this booklet posted on Chris Pinette's website (and the one that made its way onto the Internet Archive) was incomplete. It was missing all the special characters that made up the glyphs. Thanks to Mello (from the Vulhkansu discord) posting a scanned version of the original booklet, I was able to track them all down and finish off the booklet in copy-able Unicode. Enjoy!

INTRODUCTION

Vulcan is one of the chief languages of our 23rd century. Since the advent of star travel and the signing of treaties among the races of our galaxy, Vulcan has become a major power and its people can be found on many planets.

The planet Vulcan, while maintaining an advanced technology, is still rich in the old traditions. The new and old is reflected in the Vulcan language.

There are more than one hundred dialects of the Vulcan language. The dialect taught in this Guide is the principal dialect, or first language(**anakana**), of the planet Vulcan, as proclaimed by the Vulcan Academy of Sciences.

Below is a chart illustrating the five main dialects of the Vulcan language and the percentage of the population who speak them.

DIALECT	ENGLISH TRANSLATION	PERCENTAGE
Anakana	First Language	75%
Nikana	Second Language	10%
Noyokana	Central Language	5%
Senura-kana	Ceremonial Language	5%
Taiya-kana	Old Language	3%
Other Dialects		2%

LESSON 1: ORTHOGRAPHY

The Vulcan language does not have an alphabet such as many Earth languages do, instead, Vulcan words are formed by a series of sounds, each represented by a symbol. The chart below lists all of the sounds and symbols of the Vulcan language.

a ≷	i ∂	u ≮	e ∡	o =
cha Δ≷	chi Δ∂	chu Δ≮	che Δ∡	cho Δ=
fa ≡≷	fi ≡∂	fu ≡≮	fe ≡∡	fo ≡=
ka >≷	ki >∂	ku >≮	ke >∡	ko >=
la ∝≷	li ∝∂	lu ∝≮	le ∝∡	lo ∝=
ma ±≷	mi ±∂	mu ±≮	me ±∡	mo ±=
na ∓≷	ni ∓∂	nu ∓≮	ne ∓∡	no ∓=
pa ⋄≷	pi ⋄∂	pu ⋄≮	pe ⋄∡	po ⋄=
ra ≠≷	ri ≠∂	ru ≠≮	re ≠∡	ro ≠=
sha ◊≷	shi ◊∂	su ◊≮	se ◊∡	sho ◊=
ta ∇≷	ti ∇∂	tu ∇≮	te ∇∡	to ∇=
wa ∮≷	wi ∮∂	wu ∮≮	we ∮∡	wo ∮=
xa ≛≷	xi ≛∂	xu ≛≮	xe ≛∡	xo ≛=
ya ≻≷	yi ≻∂	yu ≻≮	ye ≻∡	yo ≻=

LESSON 2: PRONUNCIATION

The Vulcan vowels are pronounced as follows:

a as in *park*
i as in *police*
u as the double *oo* in *soon*
ai as *i* in *ice*
au as *ow* in *now*

e as the sound of *a* in *same*
o as in *old*

ei as *a* in *face*
oi as *oy* in *boy*

The vowel **u**, when preceded by a consonant, is silent in a good many Vulcan words. Example: **ponu faru** (mating time) is pronounced as **pon far**.

The Vulcan consonants are, in most cases, pronounced as they are in English with the exception of **x** which is pronounced as the *z* in English.

LESSON 3: ACCENTUATION

In words with two syllables, the stress generally falls on the first syllable or vowel. In words with three or more syllables, the stress usually falls on the second syllable or vowel.

LESSON 4: SENTENCE STRUCTURE

In a Vulcan sentence or clause, the verb is placed at the end, and its grammatical order is *subject+object+verb*, so that instead of saying:

> I bought a new coat.

the Vulcan would say:

> I a new coat bought.

LESSON 5: ARTICLES - SINGULAR AND PLURAL

There is no definite or indefinite article in Vulcan, and only in a few cases is the plural form used, so that **woku**(*book*) may mean *the book, a book*, *books*, or *the books*.

LESSON 6: NOMINATIVE AND ACCUSATIVE

In most Earth languages no distinction exists between words used in the nominative and in the accusative. In Vulcan the distinction between these two cases exists, and in the nominative is indicated by the postposition "**ra**" while in the accusative is indicated by the postposition "**ro**".

Supposing that English words were Vulcan, let us consider the following sentence in which the Vulcan particles indicating the nominative and accusative are placed in the position that they should have in the Vulcan translation:

English construction - *Horses eat grass*.
Vulcan construction - *Horses **ra** grass **ro** eat*.

LESSON 7: INTERROGATIVE

The interrogative is indicated by "**ta**" at the end of a sentence or clause, which corresponds to a question mark in English.

LESSON 8: VERBS

In Vulcan there is only one expression for all three persons, singular or plural, of each verb tense. All Vulcan verbs end with the prefix "sha" which is conjugated as follows:

sha - present positive
shi - past positive
sho - future positive

shanai - present negative
shinai - past negative
shonai - future negative

Examples:

isha - do
ishanai - do not
ishi - did
ishinai - did not
isho - will do
ishonai - will not do

itisha - is, are, am
itishanai - is not
itishi - was
itishinai - was not
itisho - will be
itishonai - will not be

mosha - eat
moshanai - not eat
moshi - ate
moshinai - did not eat
mosho - will eat
moshonai - will not eat

nemusha - sleep
nemushanai - not sleep
nemushi - slept
nemushinai - did not sleep
nemusho - will sleep
numushonai - will not sleep

chosha - work
choshanai - not work
choshi - worked
choshinai - did not work
chosho - will work
choshonai - will not work

urikisha - read
urikishanai - not read
urikishi - did read
urikishinai - did not read
urikisho - will read
urikishonai - will not read

LESSON 9: GREETINGS

shacha - hello
moi loma - good morning
moi kima - good afternoon
moi tema - good evening
moi yami - good night

oyori - good-bye

Like many Earth people, the Vulcans often use, as a way of salutation, expressions about the weather:

moi racha - good weather	**machi itisha** - it is hot
waru racha - bad weather	**yatomi itisha** - it is cold

A popular Vulcan expression used instead of saying good-bye is: "Live Long and Prosper." It is translated as follows:

Tai nasha no karosha.

LESSON 10: MOST COMMON EXPRESSIONS

ha - yes	**moi** - good
ina - no	**waru** - bad
yana - you	**rena** - health
wani – I, me	**daifu** - sick

NOTE: The word "**ha**" (yes) is written with the symbol "fa"(≡≷), but pronounced "**ha**". It is the only word in the Vulcan language that is pronounced with the "*h*" sound.

Yana ra moi rena ro itisha ta. - Are you in good health?
Ha, wani ra moi rena ro itisha. - Yes, I am in good health.
Ina, wani ra moi rena ro itishanai. - No, I am not in good health.
Wani ra waru rena ro itisha. - I am in bad health.
Wani ra daifu ro itisha. - I am sick.

LESSON 11: MOST COMMON EXPRESSIONS

yanamo - your	**mekina** - mother
wanimo - my	**mekino** - father
taiya - old	**fokima** - sister
kesu - young	**fokimo** - brother

Yanamo mekina ra moi rena ro itisha ta. - Is your mother in good health?
Wanimo mekino ra taiya ro itisha. - My father is old.
Wanimo fokima ra kesu ro itisha. - My sister is young.
Wanimo fokimo ra chosha. - My brother works.
Yanamo mekino ra moshi ta. - Did your father eat?

LESSON 12: MOST COMMON EXPRESSIONS

yako - where
tako - here
atako - there
woku - book
shokuto - hotel
rochinu - academy

Yana ra yako itisha ta. - Where are you?
Wani ra tako itisha. - I am here.
Wanimo woku ra yako itisha ta. - Where is the hotel?
Rochinu ra atako itisha ta. - Is the academy there?
Ha, rochinu ra atako itisha. - Yes, the academy is there.

LESSON 13: MOST COMMON EXPRESSIONS

maiya - please
nemaiyo - thank you
seisha - give
reiya - water
choto - more
yorosha - want

Wani ra reiya ro seisha. - Give me some water.
Wani ra reiya ro maiya seisha. - Please give me some water.
Yana ra choto reiya ro yorosha ta. - Do you want more water?
Nemaiyo. Wani ra choto reiya ro yoroshanai. - Thank you. I do not want more water.

LESSON 14: LANGUAGE

futisha - speak
konusha - understand
Yakana - Vulcan(language)
Eikana - English(language)

Yana ra Yakana ro futisha ta. - Do you speak Vulcan?
Ha, wani ra Yakana ro futisha. - Yes, I speak Vulcan.
Ina, wani ra Yakana ro futishanai. - No, I do not speak Vulcan.
Wani ra Eikana ro konusha. - I understand English.
Wanimo mekino ra Yakana ro futisha. - My father speaks Vulcan.

LESSON 15: EXCLAMATORY EXPRESSIONS

Semara - Fascinating!
Oyaka - Splendid!
Rano itisha. - It is logical!
Kuroika. - Stop!(command)
Noto ta. - Really?
Seino. - Of course!
Nato tesha. - Wait a moment!
Nachama. - Surprising!
Moichino itisha ta. - Is it the truth?

Chatai. - Excuse me!

LESSON 16: NUMBERS

1 - ana
2 - nina
3 - shina
4 - wana
5 - shana
6 - rana
7 - nena
8 - lona
9 - xina
10 - kuna

From 11 to 19, numbers are formed by dropping the syllable "**na**" from kuna (10) and adding the numeral given above from 1 to 9. The English literal translation would be: *ten-one* for 11, *ten-two* for 12, etc.

11 - ku-ana
12 - ku-nina
13 - ku-shina
14 - ku-wana
15 - ku-shana
16 - ku-rana
17 - ku-nena
18 - ku-lona
19 - ku-xina

Decimals from 20:

20 - nina-ku
30 - shina-ku
40 - wana-ku
50 - shana-ku
60 - rana-ku
70 - nena-ku
80 - lona-ku
90 - xina-ku

Hundreds (rai):

100 - ana-rai
200 - nina-rai
300 - shina-rai
400 - wana-rai
500 - shana-rai
600 - rana-rai
700 - nena-rai
800 - lona-rai
900 - xina-rai

Thousands (sai):

1000 - ana-sai
2000 - nina-sai
3000 - shina-sai
4000 - wana-sai
5000 - shana-sai
6000 - rana-sai
7000 - nena-sai
8000 - lona-sai
9000 - xina-sai

Examples of various numbers:

25 - nina-ku shana
58 - shana-ku lona
515 - shana-rai ku-shana
1300 - ana-sai shina-rai
42 - wana-ku nina
103 - ana-rai shina
895 - lona-rai xina-ku shana
6501 - rana-sai shana-rai ana

LESSON 17: USING NUMBERS

nanuto - what
acha - how many
acho - how much
pata - hour
osera - age
toi - time

Yanamo osera ra nanuto itisha ta. - What is your age?
Wanimo osera ra shina-ku shana itisha. - My age is 35.
Toi ra nanuto itisha ta. - What time is it?
Toi ra pata kuna itisha. - The time is hour ten.
Woku ra acha itisha ta. - How many books are there?
Lona woku ra itisha. - There are eight books.
Woku ra acho itisha ta. - How much is the book?

LESSON 18: TRAVEL

yasha - come(come from)
esha - go(go to)
masha - have
kome - another
tara - planet
reito - passport
Yatara - Vulcan(planet)
Eitara - Earth(planet)

Yana ra yako yasha ta. - Where do you come from?
Wani ra Eitara ro yasha. - I come from Earth.
Wani ra kome tara ro yasha. - I come from another planet.
Yana ra yako esha ta. - Where are you going?
Wani ra Yatara ro esha. - I am going to Vulcan.
Yana ra reito ro masha ta. - Do you have a passport?

LESSON 19: HONORIFICS

In polite speech, when referring to certain persons or things, respect is indicated by prefixing the phonetic sound of "**la**"(*honorable*) to the noun indicating the esteemed object. Below are a few examples:

kurasu - **kuramano** - ambassador
la-kuramano - honorable ambassador

chameto - ancestor
la-chameto - honorable ancestor

rochinu seiya - academy of sciences

la-rochinu seiya - honorable academy of sciences

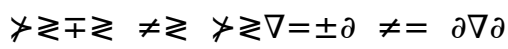
kasemano - doctor
la-kasemano - honorable doctor

LESSON 20: WRITING VULCAN

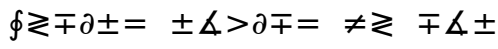
The Vulcan language is written by replacing the romanized sounds used in this guide with the symbols listed in the chart presented earlier. A Vulcan sentence has two forms of punctuation: the pause (**shiru**) which is indicated by three dots positioned in this position [∵] and the end (**shoto**) which is indicated by three dots positioned in this position [∴] .

Examples:

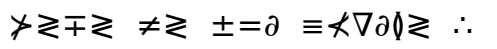
Yana ra yatomi ro itisha ta. - Are you cold?



Wanimo mekino ra nemusha. - My father is sleeping.

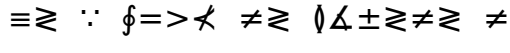


Yana ra moi futisha. - You speak good.

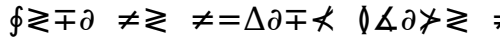


Reiya ra yatomi ro itisha. - The water is cold.

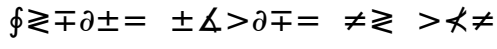
Ha, woku ra semara ro itisha. - Yes, the book is fascinating.



Wani ra rochinu seiya ro esha. - I am going to the academy of sciences.



Wanimo mekino ra kuramano ro itisha. - My father is an ambassador.



Wani ra Eikana no Yakana ro konusha. - I understand English and Vulcan.

∮≷∓∂ ≠≷ ∡∂>≷∓≷ ∓= ≯≷>≷∓≷ ≠= >=∓≮◊≷ ∴

DICTIONARY OF VULCAN WORDS

acha - how many
acho - how much
ainama - beautiful
aisha - love
aiya - star
aiya-wasu - starship
akaxo - alien, out-worlder
anasu - eye
anu wunu - a Vulcan weapon
asha - meditate
atai - far
atako - there
atano - few
cha - blood
chamai - big
chameto - ancestor
chasu - long
chatai - Excuse me!
chaxa - white
chikaru - animal
chisu - short
chosha - work
choto - more
daifu - sick
e - fire
Eikana - English(language)
Eitara - Earth(planet)
emafa kito - Vulcan mind touch
emafa suru - Vulcan mind meld
emi - never
ero - after
eru - day
esha - go
eta - Vulcan nerve pinch
fa - (see "**ha**")
fanasu - nose
faruwa - dirty
fikaru - strong
fokima - sister
fokimo - brother
fuma - female

fumo - male
futisha - speak
ha - yes
imi - sometimes
ina - no
ipai - slow
iri-kaisha - intermarriage
iro - before
iru - night
isha - do
isu - down
itai - near
itaru - ugly
itisha - is, are, am
iya - hungry
kaisha - marriage
kaifa - wife
kaifo - husband
kalifa - Let the ceremony begin!
kalifi - challenge
kara - why
karosha - prosper
kasei - phaser
kasemano - doctor
kasu wanu - Vulcan maturity test
kesu - young
kima - afternoon
kome - another
konaya - food
konusha - understand
kotai - little
kulifa - I refuse!
kuramano - ambassador
kuroika - stop(command)
lanasu - ear
laxa - yellow
limatuya - Vulcan wild animal
loma - morning
macha - today
machi - hot
mafa - mind
maiya - please
manasu - leg
masha - have
maxa - brown
mekano - name

mekina - mother
mekino - father
moi - good
moichino - truth
mosha - eat
nachama - surprising
nanasu - foot
nauto - what
nasha - live
nato - moment
nemaiyo - thank you
nemusha - sleep
no - and
nome - all
noto - really
osera - age
oyaka - splendid
oyori - good-bye
panasu - toe
pata - hour
ponu faru - mating time
pulomiku - Vulcan soup
racha - weather
ranasu - arm
rano - logical
rato - Vulcan grapes
raxa - black
reito - passport
reiya - water
rena - health
rochinu - academy
seino - Of course!
seisha - give
seiya - science
selatu - sehlat(Vulcan pet)
semara - fascinating
shacha - hello
shayo - brandy
shaxa - blue
shiru - pause(sentence)
shokuto - hotel
shoto - end(sentence)
tai - long
taiya - old
taiyo - chess
tako - here

talu shaya - kill by snapping the neck
tara - planet
taxa - red
tema - evening
tesha - wait
toi - time
urikisha - read
wani - me
wanimo - my
waru - bad
wasu - ship
woku - book
Yakana - Vulcan(language)
yako - where
yami - night
yana - you
yanamo - your
yanasu - finger
yasha - come
Yatara - Vulcan(planet)
yatomi - cold
yaxa - green
yorosha - want

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